



STATE SENATOR 29th District

Bill Hardiman

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Dear Friends,

With summer coming to a close, I want to provide you with a legislative report on several important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll-free at 866-305-2129 or at www.SenatorBillHardiman.com if you would like further information on any of the topics in this newsletter.

Earlier this year, the Senate solved a \$900 million deficit in the current budget, starting with cuts to the Legislature's own budget. We balanced the books while maintaining essential state services without a tax hike. A massive shortfall looms in the 2008 budget – projected at over 1 billion dollars. As these recurring deficits make clear, the time has come for bold action to force government to live within its means.

I believe we must restructure and streamline government. It is time to take a hard look at the services government provides and how those services are delivered. Difficult decisions lie ahead for our state, but I am confident common sense reforms will help extract Michigan from a spiral of fiscal crises. We can meet the challenges ahead, and a new Michigan - strong and competitive - can emerge.

It is an honor to serve you and the families of the 29th district in the Michigan Senate. I hope you will take a moment to answer and return the brief survey in the back of the newsletter. Your thoughts, ideas and concerns are important and help me better represent your needs. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in the district soon!

Best wishes,

Bill Hardiman
State Senator
29th District



DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours one Monday a month from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. throughout the 29th district. Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

Monday September 10, 2007 —

Garfield Park Neighborhood Association
334 Burton SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Monday October 8, 2007— Lowell YMCA
1335 Main Street, Lowell MI 49331

Monday November 5, 2007 — Red Hot Inn
3175 Leonard St NE, Grand Rapids, 49525

HARDIMAN RESOLUTION: A WELL DESERVED HONOR FOR PRESIDENT FORD

There is an old wise saying that encourages us to give "honor to whom honor is due". Recently, Senator Hardiman introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 15, which does exactly that. This Resolution would memorialize the Congressional Joint Committee on the Library to place a statue of Presidential Gerald Ford in the US Capitol as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection.

"President Ford embodied honor and integrity as Michigan's only president," said Hardiman, R-Kentwood. "We will be forever proud to claim him as one of our own. Placing his statue in the building where he spent so many years of his life is a great way to honor President Ford. His life stands as a tremendous model of public service."

The placement of this statue will be the result of the leadership and support of many people including the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and Congressman Vern Ehlers. No tax payer's dollars will be spent on this project; it will be completely funded with private donations.

Each state is allowed two statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The Ford sculpture would replace the statue of Zachariah Chandler, former head of Michigan's Republican Party and former mayor of Detroit. Michigan's other statue, former Governor Lewis Cass' statue could remain in Washington D.C.

The Chandler statue would be returned to Michigan and be placed at the Detroit Historical Museum.

His legacy will continue to inspire us and that is why I am honored to sponsor this Resolution.," said Hardiman.

LEGISLATURE PASSES HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE SBT

After a conference committee hearing and late Senate and House sessions, lawmakers passed a historic agreement to replace Michigan's expiring single business tax, keeping much of the Senate Republicans' original plan and modifying parts of the plans offered by the governor and House Democrats.

The MBT is fair and equitable and encourages job creation and investment in Michigan's growing small-business sector. It provides significant relief for the state's domestic auto industry, as well as an incentive for businesses to locate in Michigan.

The agreement replaces all of the projected SBT revenue in 2008, making it revenue neutral. Taxpayers with gross receipts under \$20 million will generally see a substantial reduction in tax.

Other features of the MBT include:

- Two separate taxes: a business income tax levied at a rate of 4.95 percent and a modified gross receipts tax levied at a rate of .80 percent;
- A significant exemption for small businesses. The plan includes the "Michigan Entrepreneurial Exemption," or ME2, to help small businesses grow. Under the ME2, companies pay no taxes for up to three years if the business adds 20 jobs, makes an investment of \$1.25 million per year, and claims less than \$25 million in gross receipts;
- Generous personal property tax relief. Personal property tax credits and exemptions result in a 65 percent reduction in personal property taxes for manufacturers. Commercial businesses and telecommunications will see a 23 percent reduction; and
- Local units of government and schools are held harmless. The tax will raise approximately \$2.4 billion in revenue with just under \$500 million being deposited into the School Aid Fund to reimburse the K-12 system for the loss of revenue caused by the personal property tax exemption for industrial personal property.

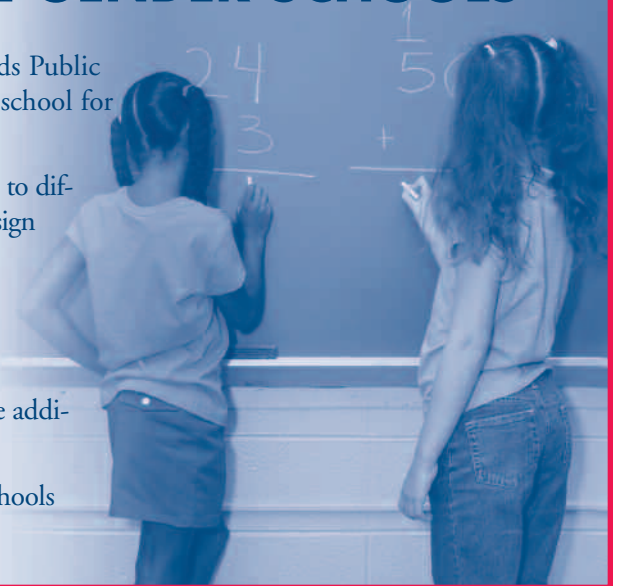
HARDIMAN BILL CALLS FOR SAME GENDER SCHOOLS

Sen. Bill Hardiman is working on legislation that would allow Grand Rapids Public Schools to offer single gender schools, classes or programs, in particular a school for young women.

Recent research indicates that boys and girls develop at different rates and respond to different types of teaching methods. In a single gender environment, teachers can design classroom conditions and lesson plans to better meet the needs of their students.

“Schools that have implemented single gender education programs have shown impressive results, including improved test scores, attendance and behavior,” Hardiman said. “I will continue to work on this legislation so that students in Grand Rapids could have this valuable opportunity - one that would not require additional funding from taxpayers.”

The legislation has received positive reception from the Grand Rapids Public Schools and the community.



SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved the Department of Human Services budget proposal for the 2008 fiscal year with bipartisan support.

Sen. Bill Hardiman, chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of Human Services, said one of the main recommendations within Senate Bill 232 is to transfer more of the foster care and juvenile services to community-based providers.

Senate Bill 232 will allow private nonprofit agencies to provide more direct services for foster care, juvenile justice and adoption programs, while the DHS would retain management and oversight of those purchased services.

Under the subcommittee's recommendation, services will be provided by licensed nonprofit, nationally accredited, private agencies and will include measurable outcomes and performance expectations that will help achieve high quality results for children and families.

Hardiman said using private providers for foster care and juvenile justice cases will preserve the same level of services while saving more than \$19 million in gross funding the first year. Annual savings thereafter are estimated at \$7.5 million.

Across Michigan, private agencies are currently providing approximately 40 percent of services to children. Under this proposal, services provided by private agencies would increase to about 60 percent. In Kent County, as well as several northern counties in the Lower Peninsula, private agencies already provide nearly 100 percent of services to children.

The measure will now advance to the full Senate for consideration.



'07 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Senator **Bill Hardiman**

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Bill Hardiman

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SENATOR HARDIMAN SUPPORTS REFORM

Rising health care costs are draining the budgets of many school districts and local governments. Senate Republicans recently introduced legislation to help reduce the cost of health benefits for public employers while maintaining excellent benefits for the employees.

Senate Bills 418-421 would allow public employers to pool medical, dental and optical benefits and require increased access to claims and other data to create the insurance pools. While participation in the medical pools would be voluntary, public

employers would be required to competitively solicit four bids for fully insured coverage.

Health insurance rates have seen double-digit increases each year from 2000 to 2006. Through competitive bidding and pooling, employers could save about eight percent a year without reducing health care benefits or coverage. This is money that directly helps our local governments, local police, local firefighters, community colleges and public schools across the state.

CLIP & RETURN



2007 SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Do you support Gov. Granholm's proposal for the early release of certain non-violent felons to save the state money?
2. Should Michigan join 22 other states as a "Right to Work" state?
3. What should be the first step in fixing Michigan's fiscal problems?
 - A. Reform the way state services are delivered.
 - B. Increase revenues through taxes and fees.
4. What is the best way to reduce the high cost of health care in Michigan?
 - A. Universal health care for all Michigan residents even if it increases your personal insurance costs.
 - B. Wellness reforms that encourage healthy living through incentives.

VOTER 1

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ A ☐ B

☐ A ☐ B

VOTER 2

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ A ☐ B

☐ A ☐ B

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____